

December 21, 2006

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVIII No. 4

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, December 21 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	This is our special Christmas meeting. After our scrumptious meal complete with sparkling cider, put forth by <u>Shirley</u> , there will be a very short business meeting; ending when <u>Santa</u> arrives to preside over our infamous gift exchange.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HOLIDAY MEETING:

Yes, revered members, it is time once again for our famous..or is that infamous..Christmas meeting. This is the meeting to which we urge all members to bring their wife, husband, significant other, a good friend or just the cute person you met at lunch. Shirley will again lay out a tasty spread of food with sparkling cider to wash it all down. After we are all fatter, happy and had a short business meeting (no auction, no table sales, no Show & Tell, no door prize) it is fervently hoped that Santa will take time from his duties as an undercover Wal-mart guard (Is that bulge under his left arm pit all fat?) to drop by and take charge of our annual gift exchange.

For those of you who might not remember our gift exchange is for anyone who would like to bring a nice wrapped photographica gift costing at least ten dollars (unless you stole it). Whatever you choose to bring should be an item YOU would enjoy receiving. Please, no "lumps of coal"!

The way it works is this: Everyone draws a number. The person with number one then gets to pick any of the presents and open it while sitting on Santa's knee. From then on as each person's number comes up he/she picks and opens a gift and then..if they choose to..**CAN EXCHANGE IT WITH ANY ALREADY OPENED GIFT.** At the end the person who had number one..and thus had no chance to exchange the gift he/she opened..can exchange with ANY of the other gifts. This means, for those of you who did not pass the math WSAL test, that the person who draws number two has the 'worst' number and should get a special pat from Santa.

If you are bringing a friend feel free to bring a gift for them so they too can take part. If you are a Bah-humbug type please still come to our meeting and enjoy the goings on while sipping your cider and yelling teasing remarks.

Please do plan to join us in what has become one of our most enjoyable meetings of the year.

SINCERE BEST HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU & YOURS



****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The November 16th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 30 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reminded members that 2007 dues were now due.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Kelly (Chairman of the Future Site Search Committee with Merle Carey and Gary Sivertsen) gave a report on progress to date on finding a future venue for our yearly Camera Show after 2007. Renton Community Center seemed interesting. Bob asked for any member who had a venue suggestion to contact him.

Gary Sivertsen reported on the Tucson Show last October. There were 110 tables, 400 to 500 people thru the door..students got in free. There were 17 tables for consignments run by club members. User film camera buying was down but digital sales were up. Next Tucson Show is in March of 2007.

SHOW REPORT:

Chairman Bill Kimber reported that the Show committee held their first meeting. There are several new club members on this years committee..most members attended the meeting. Some changes for our 2007 Show include a raise from five to six dollars for general admission with one dollar off for any returned postcard announcing the Show. Most all needed Show printing..brochures, flyers and postcards..is being done. It was suggested that in the future we look into picking a Show date when there are other groups holding events on the Fairgrounds.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Christmas Party for the December 21st meeting was discussed. (see page one) It was mentioned that there was going to be a Vancouver B.C. Camera Show on December 17th.

PROGRAM:

Art Pfalzer showed and discussed his Japanese aerial camera which he received from a man in Columbus, Ohio who had used it to film Ohio State football games years ago. Nine members brought unusual pictures they had taken or had in their collection.

SHOW & TELL..AUCTION..DOOR PRIZE:

Six members had interesting Show & Tell items. Four auction items brought in \$57.00 for the sellers. Gary Sivertsen won the door prize which was a nice book from President Darrel's collection.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. for more selling, chatting and nummie munching.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET

BOB KELLY SAYS IT IS TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT:

As you remember Bob is chairman of the club's Show venue search committee. He has announced that this is your last chance as a P.S.P.C.S. Club member to suggest a Show venue you feel would better serve the clubs future needs. If you want to leave the Puyallup Fair Grounds after this year please contact Bob with your suggestion(s) within the next several weeks. Bob's e-mail address is: mymmvm@comcast.net or, just contact any club officer.

TIS' THE SEASON OF GIVING:

As you know P.S.P.C.S. Club dues for the 2007 club year are now due. They are only \$20.00. To those of you who have already paid them the Club thanks you. Your dues pay for many expenses your Club has including: The Bellows, the rent on our meeting hall, the monthly nummies not to mention the spread Shirley will bring forth on the 21st. To date Shirley has received dues payment from 43 members. This means that 73 of you have not found the time to take care of this small task. On that unpaid list are Charter Members, several Show Committee members and many long time members. Wouldn't now, at Christmas, be a fine time to send your dues gift to Treasurer Shirley (address bottom of page two) and get that good feeling of starting the new Club year paid in full. It takes a membership to make a Club and we would like you to join us. Thank you.

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Camera Show for Christmas!!!

A call from our long-time member Tonchi Martinic who announces that there will be a show and sale of Cameras, Photographica and Optical instruments, at the Croatian Centre on Sunday, December 17th. Tables are only \$30 and this is a great chance to stock-up on presents for all the family and to thin out that enormous collection of mint Continaflexomats in your closet. Seriously we should all support this initiative and I hope to see everyone there. For more information call Tonchi at 604-681-8419. Happy Christmas Tonchi!!

Wanted

A lens for the Asahiflex camera. Preferably a 50mm but any size will be welcome. This is the forerunner to the Asahi Pentax and has an unusual 37mm thread mount. If you have one of these for sale please contact Peter Knowlden 604-462-7740.

The camera that never was

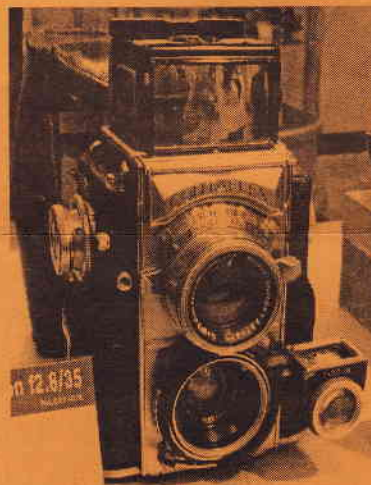
The January February issue of *Photographic Canadiana* reprinted a fascinating article by Bernd K. Otto on the Voigtlander Prototype 132. This focal plane shutter SLR with instant return mirror and iris, interchangeable prism and lenses, and retractable CdS behind the lens meter, was developed from 1956 to 1959 and could have been a world class camera. It lost out to the take-over of Voigtlander by the Carl Zeiss Foundation who favoured their less capable and more expensive Contarex, introduced at Photokina in 1958.

From the July 2006 Western Canada Photographic Historical Association. Ed

President's Notes

In May I visited the Korean Camera Museum in Seoul as a guest of the President and owner, Jong Sae Kim. Mr. Kim is an eminent collector who established the Museum to house an array from his collection of several thousand cameras.

At present there is an exhibit of Zeiss Ikon cameras accompanied by a lavish, 210page, full colour catalogue in both English and Korean. The book, *History of Zeiss Ikon AG* is available from the Museum for US\$50 plus shipping at <www.kcpm.or.kr>



The highlights of this exhibition for me were the exceedingly rare Contax II rifle camera, of which only four were made, and the almost equally rare Contaflex TLR Wide, (above), fitted with two 35mm 2.8 Biogons.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What camera made in 1940 sold for 15 cents and included a Pepsodent toothpaste box?

The Price of Collecting

by Liz Whitaker

What's happening to the value of your camera collection? Well, "That depends," according to Jim McKeown in a talk at the PhotoHistory XIII Symposium at the Eastman House in October.

In discussing the market for collectible cameras, he divides them into three categories: the low end containing cameras under \$100 where there is not much differentiation of value, the intermediate cameras from \$100-\$10,000 (view cameras, monorail, wet collodion, those that are historically interesting, stereos, etc) where there is a better sense of relative values, and the top of the market where the prices are above \$10,000 where the relative values are well understood. Needless to say, there aren't a lot of collectors for the top of the market. Each of these categories reacts to market pressures differently.

One important factor affecting the camera market currently is the Internet. It presents a huge pool of potential buyers and results in many more purchases than in the past. There is an increased supply for the buyer and less time and expense for sellers resulting in more sales. In the higher end of the market, this tends to drive prices up. At the intermediate level, it depends on how many of a particular type are available. Right now no one knows just who the collectors are. There are those of us who belong to clubs, but who are all those people buying on the Internet?

Probably the most important factor affecting the collectible camera market currently is the emergence of digital photography which now accounts for 90% of the cameras sold. This means that users no longer compete with collectors because there are very few people using film cameras. This results in a decrease in the amount of film manufactured and the price of film increases, resulting in even fewer users of film cameras. Right now, the bottom has dropped out of the market for used 35mm cameras. Dealers won't even take them as trade-ins any more. This has effectively devastated the market for low end and many intermediate category cameras.

Something that was very evident at the symposium and in most of the camera clubs across

the US is the "Graying market." The average age of collectors continues to increase and, as some expire, results in fewer collectors.

Jim noted that there is still a good level of competition at the very high end, but at the level below that, even at well-publicized auctions, there are a larger percentage of unsold lots. The WPHS has never had a camera on consignment that fits in the top category, but those at the lowest end just don't sell—we didn't sell a single camera out of six boxes full of Instamatics, etc., priced at \$1 each (or less) at the last show.

So, should you sell now or later? Jim thinks that you should buy now, but, if you want to sell, you've waited too long. I guess it's a good thing that we collect cameras because we love them, not because we're trying to build a fortune.

But, don't give up hope! Collectors' markets tend to be cyclical—maybe prices will rise again. Another factor that affects camera prices is the world economy. For example, when the Japanese economy slumps, there is not such a hot market for Leicas. Emerging economies such as China and oil-rich nations may produce a new crop of collectors who could drive the prices back up a bit.

How can we boost the market? Jim suggests that we have to appeal to youth, become speakers, plant the seed. Those of us from Tucson were very pleased when he recognized the WPHS for our efforts in appealing to youth. Our scholarships and high school photo contests are encouraging youth to go into "real" photography.

Of course, we asked Jim if he plans to print another edition of his famous book. He was pretty non-committal, but noted that he probably would if prices started to rise again.

Answer: The Eho-Box
3X4 cm (Nr. 182) by
Eho-Altissa of Dresden,
Germany. This small
size camera took 16
exposures on 127 roll film
and consisted of a metal
body with simple shutter
and is the rarest of the
Eho boxes. It books at
\$80-\$120.

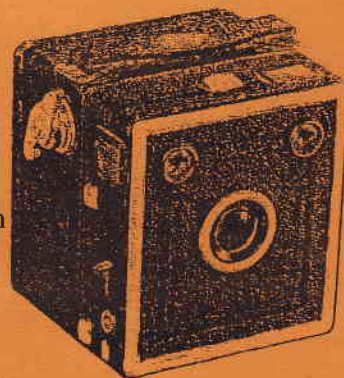


Photo from McKeown 5